



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Michael Russell

Excused

Carl Moore

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra, Sheriff's Dept.
Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller's
Office
Lee Millen, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff
Twila Kerr, Commission Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of November 10, 2004 were approved with the following addition:

Page 1, Attendance, added to Attendance/Roll Call: *Excused, Carl Moore*

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported the following:

- Commissioner Moore advised that due to his sister's passing he would not be attending today's meeting; and
- Commissioner Cragin advised that he is still too ill to attend Commission meetings or to go on inspections; and
- A Daily Breeze news article update on the Star View Group Home was briefly reviewed and distributed. It reports that under a proposal by city and county officials, the group home for the treatment of the most emotionally troubled children would no longer accept teens on criminal probation. (Copy on file.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that there is no change in the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund.

STAFF REPORT

Lee Millen, Commission Services, reported on the following:

- He and Chair Montano are working on the Commission's Sunset Review, which is an evaluation of the Commission's past accomplishments. A copy of the final report will be forwarded to Commissioners; and
- William Sias, Deputy County Counsel, is scheduled to attend today's meeting to report back on the Commission's requests regarding the use of cameras on their inspection tours, and the sharing of information by DCFS and Probation.

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, reported on the following:

- Lydia Fernandez, Probation Ombudsman, responded to the Commission's unsatisfactory inspection report of the Affirmative Action Group Home by drafting a letter to all parties concerned and will report her findings at today's meeting; and
- Commissioner Moore was unable to attend the scheduled group photo shoot; the County photographer will be rescheduled for the November 24th meeting at 11:00 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

Sheriff's Department: Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra gave the following update:

- Due to the department's Mental Health Program including other factors, the number of inmates at the Twin Towers facility has decreased to 2,114 males and 1,815 females; and
- The Commission's requests (a designated liaison to the Commission from Custody/Patrol/Courts and a monthly "Use of Force" statistical report) were given to the Sheriff's office for disposition; and
- There was one suicide at Twin Towers and two deaths that, pending autopsy reports, have been tentatively listed as "natural causes"; and
- Current budget difficulties are delaying discussions regarding the conversion of the CRDF facility into an all female facility and the possibility of renaming it the Sybil Brand Institute.

Vice Chair Stathatos discussed the Commission's increased concern for the lack of security in the Sally Port at the Glendale Court now that the court's intake of inmates has more than doubled. Commissioner Hammargren requested a list of closed courts; Lt. Arthur-Parra will follow-up and report back. Chair Montano requested an update on the lack of security at the Pomona Court; Lt. Arthur-Parra noted that this request had also been forwarded to the Sheriff office, but that no response has been received.

Probation Department: No representative in attendance.

Auditor-Controller's Office: Doris Reed advised that she has accepted a position as staff analyst for the HIV Commission and that this would be her last Commission meeting. A representative from her department will be attending future Commission meetings, however, a replacement has yet to be named. A brief discussion followed regarding alternate living and co-ed group homes. Ms. Reed advised that the Booth Memorial Group Home had been closed and the residents have been relocated. She thanked the Commissioners for their commitment and cooperation. The Commission thanked Ms. Reed for her commitment and wished her well in her new position.

Dept. of Children and Family Services: No representative in attendance.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Greene Home for Boys – 50 #3

Commissioners Bacio and Russell visited this facility on November 16th and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: the interior of the home needs an overall cleaning and painting; excessive amount of dust, air conditioner needs new filters; four (4) of the six (6) dressers need new drawers; there are gnats/insects throughout house; and back yard needs to be cleaned up. Commissioners noted that the age range for residents of this home is from 8 to 13, but there were no play sets or sports equipment anywhere. **A two month re-inspection is planned.**

Turmont Home for Boys – 108 #1

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility on November 16th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Hillsides Home for Children/Girls Satellite Home – 54 #2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on November 15th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this home is an outstanding example for others to follow and shows what can be done when a community and local businesses work together. The entire house and grounds had been completely redecorated by the ASID (American Society of Interior Designers) and associated local trades people who donated their services. Commissioners requested staff to prepare a "Certificate of Appreciation" for this facility.

Arrowhead Emancipation Program/Canyon Crest – 3 #1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on November 12th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility has improved since their last inspection.

Arrowhead Emancipation Program/Canyon Crest – 2 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on November 12th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility is very old and in constant need of maintenance and repair, however, the facility staff does a satisfactory job.

Alannah Homes/Rainbow Ridge – 1 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on November 12th and gave a rating of **excellent**. Areas of concern: bathroom floor should be replaced; and kitchen oven needs cleaning.

Alannah Homes/Rainbow Ridge – 1 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on November 12th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of concern: kitchen floor under the stove and the sliding door needs to be replaced; plumbing under kitchen sink needs repair; and first aid kit needs to be restocked.

Affirmative Action Group Home – 1 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on November 15th and gave a rating of **unsatisfactory**. Areas of concern; the entire facility and grounds need improvement; fascia and roof vents are rotted away; kitchen oven and food storage areas need to be cleaned; kitchen sink clogged; inadequate supply of non-perishables and snacks; food on in stock does not match menu; inadequate supply of dishes and utensils; odors permeated the home and attracted insects; pornographic wall photos in back bedroom should be removed; closets were messy and clothing strewn about; quick release window bars were broken; a stinking rotted bathroom waste basket needs to be replaced; shower floor was grimy; facility escort, Shirley Poné, was totally uninformed and too preoccupied with numerous phone calls to deal with residents or Commissioners; carpet torn; water heater not vented; facility needs new roof; and batteries missing in smoke detectors.

Commissioners expressed concern that although this facility houses emotionally disturbed juveniles no medications or medical records available.

A two week re-inspection is planned.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano gave out inspection assignments to Commissioners for the following week.

Vice Chair Stathatos reported that a staff member of the Arrowhead Emancipation Program Home advised that the female juvenile previously reported missing from that facility for 3 weeks is now home with her mother and is no longer a resident of that facility.

Commissioner Russell noted that he received complaints from local residents regarding the proposed closure of King-Drew Hospital's Trauma Unit.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Commission Staff